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N00014-81-C-0682

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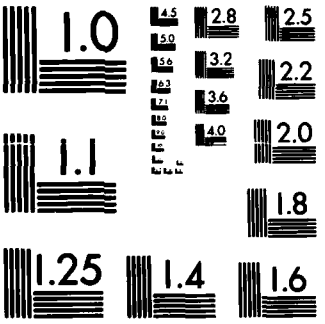

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1. REPORT NUMBER: 82-1	2. GOVT ACCESSION NO.: AD-A122593
3. RECIPIENT'S CATALOG NUMBER:	
4. TITLE (and Subtitle): Silylated Tetrahydrofuran Derivatives	5. TYPE OF REPORT & PERIOD COVERED: Interim Technical Report
	6. PERFORMING ORG. REPORT NUMBER:
7. AUTHOR(s): Curtis L. Schilling, Jr.	8. CONTRACT OR GRANT NUMBER(s): N00014-81-C-0682
9. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME AND ADDRESS: Union Carbide Corporation, Tarrytown, New York	10. PROGRAM ELEMENT, PROJECT, TASK AREA & WORK UNIT NUMBERS:
11. CONTROLLING OFFICE NAME AND ADDRESS: Chemistry Branch, Office of Naval Research, Arlington, Virginia 22217	12. REPORT DATE: 3 December 1982
	13. NUMBER OF PAGES: Four (4)
14. MONITORING AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS(if different from Controlling Office)	15. SECURITY CLASS. (of this report): Unclassified
	15a. DECLASSIFICATION/DOWNGRADING SCHEDULE:

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18. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

Prepared for Publication in J. Organometal. Chem.

19. KEY WORDS (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number)

Silanes Tetrahydrofuran Potassium

20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number)

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OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH

CONTRACT N00014-81-C-0682

TECHNICAL REPORT 82-1

SILYLATED TETRAHYDROFURAN DERIVATIVES

by

Curtis L. Schilling, Jr.

Prepared for Publication in

Organometallics

Union Carbide Corporation
Tarrytown, New York 10591

3 December 1982

SILYLATED TETRAHYDROFURAN DERIVATIVES

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ABSTRACT

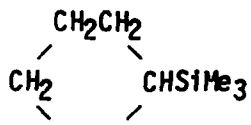
2-Trimethylsilyltetrahydrofuran and 2-(2-trimethylsilylethyl)tetrahydrofuran have been isolated from dechlorinations of mixtures of silane monomers by potassium metal in tetrahydrofuran solvent. These low yield products may involve the common intermediacy of the 2-tetrahydrofuryl anion or the 2-tetrahydrofuryl radical and its trapping by trimethylchlorosilane and vinyltrimethylsilane.

INTRODUCTION

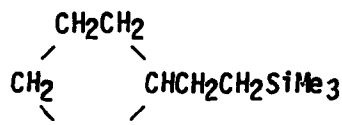
Numerous reactions have been run in tetrahydrofuran (THF) solvent wherein products which arise by hydrogen abstraction from the solvent are isolated. For example, treatment of gem-dibromocyclopropanes with methylmagnesium bromide yields monobromocyclopropanes[1]. Grignard[2,3] or lithium[4] reactions of organopolyhalides with trimethylchlorosilane yield products in which halogens have been replaced by hydrogens. Triphenylsilyllithium[5] and α,ω-dilithioperphenylpolysilanes[6] react with dichloromethane to yield triphenylmethylsilane and α,ω-dimethylperphenylpolysilanes, respectively.

2-Lithiotetrahydrofuran is proposed as a product of the reaction of n-butyllithium with THF[7,8] with mass spectral evidence for monodeuterotetrahydrofuran when the reaction is quenched with D_2O[7]. Deprotonation of THF by a bicyclononadienyl anion has also been reported[9].

Active metal dechlorinations of mixtures of silane monomers, including chlorosilanes, vinylic silanes, and chloromethyl silanes have yielded polycarbosilane precursors for silicon carbide.[10]. Certain of these reactions, run using potassium metal in THF as the dechlorinating medium, have provided 2-trimethylsilyltetrahydrofuran (I) or 2-(2-trimethylsilyl)ethyl-tetrahydrofuran (II) in relatively low yields, in addition to the expected products.



I



II

Isolable quantities of I were obtained from the reaction of trimethylchlorosilane with dichloromethane using K metal in THF. Addition of a mixture of Me_3SiCl/CH_2Cl_2 to refluxing THF/molten K metal suspension

$$2.1\ Me_3SiCl + CH_2Cl_2 + 2.2K \xrightarrow{THF} (Me_3Si)_2O + (Me_3Si)_2 + (Me_3Si)_2CH_2 + I + \text{higher boilers}$$

at a rate maintaining the reflux temperature above 64°, followed by cooling, cautious termination with aqueous THF, and neutralization with conc. HCl yielded a group of products including I (5.3% yield based on Me_3SiCl). Preparative gas chromatography yielded a pure sample with appropriate NMR/mass spectra and elemental analyses ($C_7H_{16}OSi$, Calc'd: % C, 58.33, % H, 11.11, % Si, 19.44; Found: % C, 58.39, % H, 11.15, % Si, 19.66).

Similarly, dechlorination of ethyltrichlorosilane in the presence of vinyltrimethylsilane

$$EtSiCl_3 + 1.2\ CH_2 = CHSiMe_3 + 1.6K \xrightarrow{THF} II + \text{polymer}$$

yields a branched polycarbosilane + II (0.12% yield). A purified sample provided correct NMR/mass spectra and elemental analyses ($C_9H_{20}OSi$, Calc'd: % C, 62.79, % H, 11.63, % Si, 16.28; Found: % C, 63.03, % H, 11.87, % Si, 16.04. Yields of II up to 2.9% have been obtained from other reactions.

The isolations of I and II support the intermediacy of the 2-tetrahydrofuryl anion or the 2-tetrahydrofuryl radical. The anionic intermediate is more likely in the formation of I via simple displacement of chloride from Me_3SiCl. Compound II could form via a free radical process, or by Michael addition of an anionic intermediate to CH_2=$CHSiMe_3$. Both radical and anionic intermediates may be involved in a common pathway with K metal transforming 2-tetrahydrofuryl radicals to 2-tetrahydrofuryl anions by electron transfer. Our attempts to prepare I by quenching an n-butyllithium/THF solution[7] with Me_3SiCl were unsuccessful, while treatment of a refluxing solution of THF/CH_2=$CHSiMe_3$ with benzoyl peroxide or azobisisobutyronitrile (method of reference 11) provided a very low yield of II.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The laboratory assistance of D. A. Williams and J. Alfonso is gratefully acknowledged, as is work on mass spectra by B. Waldman and prep GC by G. Heylmun plus helpful discussions with G. J. Murphy and J. Ritscher. This research was supported in part by the Office of Naval Research.

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